(e) if so, what are the reasons for not taking any decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY); (a) to (e) According to information received from the Registry of Guwa-hati High Court, 388 main cases relating to Meghalaya were pending in the Guwa-hati High Court on 1. 1. 90.

It is agreed, in principle, that there should be separate High Courts for all the North Eastern States, including Meghalaya. The Government of Meghalaya were told in 1987 that, to begin with the existing Circuit Bench of the Gauhati High Court at Shillong would be converted into a permanent Bench as soon as necessary infrastructural facilities were provided by the State Government. The necessary facilities have not yet been made available. No complaints have however been received from the State Government against the functioning of the existing Circuit Bench.

The information regarding the number and duration of sitting of the Circuit Bench at Shillong during last one year is awaited from the Registry of the Gauhati High Court.

Establishment of food processing plants

*175. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) how many food processing plants came into existence after the formation of the Ministry at the Centre;

(b) what were the total number of food processing plants in India before Ministry came into existence; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to establish new food processing plants in different parts of the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND FOOD PROCESSING ' INDUSTRIES (SHRI HUKUMDEO. NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Food Processing Industries are in the organised and unorganised sectors. Most of the Food Processing Industries are delicensed. Information in respect of all the food processing industries in the different sectors is not being maintained centrally. In view of this, it is not possible to give an authentic information about the number of all the food processing plants in India which were in existence before the Ministry of Food Processing Industries came into existence in July, 1988 and the number of all the plants which have been set up after the formation of the Ministry.

(c) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries does not have any proposal to set up new food processing units directly in any State. However, this Ministry has formulated several plan schemes under which assistance is provided to the State governments, cooperative societies, public sector undertakings etc. for development of food processing industries.

चमड़े की वस्तुओं का निर्यात

*176. श्री राम जेठमलानी :

सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गत वर्षों से चमड़े की अनेक वस्तुओं का देश से निर्यात किया जा रहा है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो पिछले तीन वर्षों में वर्ष-वार कितने मूल्य का निर्यात किया गया है ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि चालू वर्ष में इन निर्यात में कमी आने की संभावना है ; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि चमड़े की इन वस्तुओं का निर्यात मुख्यत: अमरीका, सोवियत रूस तथा अन्य यूरोपीय